THE MELANCHOLY OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA

17

ART BY GAKU TSUGANO

STORY BY NAGARU TANIGAWA

CHARACTERS BY: NOIZI ITO

...HOW ANNOYING THINGS WERE GOING TO GET.

I DOUBTED THE SOS BRIGADE WOULD GET ANY MORE MEMBERS THAN IT ALREADY HAD.

THIS WAS ALL THE DOING OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

THE CULPRIT WAS OBVIOUS.

MY PREDICTION WAS HALF-RIGHT AND HALF-WRONG.

BUT AT THE TIME, I HAD NO IDEA...

TOKYO 56
MADRID 923
WATCH FOR ANIMALS
NEXT
17
THE MELANCHOLY of HARUHI SUZUMIYA
ORIGINAL STORY NAGARU TANIGAWA
MANGA GAKU TSUGANO
CHARACTER DESIGN: NOIZI ITO

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GREET-INGS, MY FRIENDS!

I HAVE ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT TIDINGS OF AN INVITA-TION!

'TIS THE SECOND ANNUAL FLOWER-VIEWING PARTY!

BI (FLICK)

LAST TIME WE HAD A LOOK AT THE YOSHINO FLOWERS.

BUT THIS TIME IT'S ALL ABOUT THE YAEZAKURA BLOSSOMS!

IT WAS FRIDAY, THE DAY AFTER WE'D MET THE NEW STU-DENTS.

TSURUYA TOLD US THE FLOWER-VIEWING PARTY WOULD BE HELD DURING THE NEXT GOLDEN WEEK.

BACK IN THE OLD DAYS, THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT WHEN THEY SAID "CHERRY BLOSSOMS"!

WITH IDEAS LIKE THAT... I WONDER IF YOU'RE THE LAST SCION OF AN ASUKA-ERA LINEAGE OR SOMETHING?

THAT'S OUR TSURUYA-SAN!

SUCH GUIDANCE IS ONLY TOO NECESSARY AGAINST MODERN TRENDS IN GARDENING!

—IN OUR NINEFOLD PALACE COURT, SHED THEIR SWEET PERFUME, RIGHT?

YAEZAKURA BLOSSOMS THAT AT NARA, ANCIENT SEAT OF OUR STATE, HAVE BLOOMED—

THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY, SO HECK IF I KNOW!

BOSO (MURMUR)

...I SEE THE WHITE THREAD OF A WATER-FALL.

?

I DON'T REMEMBER THAT ONE.

THE MOUNTAIN BLOSSOMS HAVE BLOOMED, AND IN THE FAR-OFF CLOUDS—

ANYWAY, IT DOESN'T MATTER!

NOTE: TSURUYA AND HARUHI ARE QUOTING A POEM BY POET ISE NO TAIFU.

I COULD NEVER HOPE TO KEEP UP.

SHE WAS LIKE A HUMAN-SIZED TYPHOON.

BATAN (SLAM)

NYA HA HA HA

GOOD LUCK THIS YEAR!

WELL, SEE YA!

...FIRST WE HAVE TO PLAN FOR TOMOR-ROW.

BUT ANYWAY ...

WE SHOULD ALL COMPOSE SHORT POEMS WHILE LOOKING AT THE BLOSSOMS.

LOOKS LIKE THAT'S ONE MORE THING TO DO OVER GOLDEN WEEK.

ARMBAND: CHIEF

TO SEARCH FOR MYSTERIES THAT ARE GONNA SHOW UP REAL SOON NOW!

SHUPA (SHWP)

THIS SATURDAY! TOMORROW!

WE'RE ALL MEETING IN FRONT OF THE STATION AT 9 A.M.!

長

THEY'RE MYSTERIES, NOT CATS.

OOMPH!

IT'S SPRING, AFTER ALL!

AND THE WEATHER'S WARMING UP, SO THAT'LL MAKE THEM EASIER TO CATCH.

LOOK, KYON.

PRETTY SOON IT'S GOING TO BE A YEAR SINCE I STARTED THE CLUB.

SO FAR, WE'VE GOT EXACTLY NOTHING TO SHOW FOR A YEAR'S WORTH OF EFFORT.

KATA (TAP)

KATA

KATA

KATA

ARMBAND: CHIEF

JIROR! (GLARE)

IF IT GETS OUTSIDE THE BRIGADE, I'M BLAMING YOU.

THAT'S A SECRET.

CLAS-SIFIED INFOR-MATION.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING THERE ANYWAY?

UPDAT-ING THE WEB-SITE?

WHAT, ARE YOU WORRIED?

A-HA, YOU DO WANT A FRESHMAN TO JOIN UP.

IT'S JUST A PRE-CAUTION I'M TAKING.

ANOTHER FLYER?

WRONG.

"BRIGADEER NUMBER ONE" OR "FIRST UNDERLING" —PICK ONE!

TEE HEE HEE!

WELL, IF YOU WANT A TITLE THAT BADLY, I'LL THINK ONE UP FOR YOU.

...

THERE ARE NO PLAYS LEFT TO MAKE. I RESIGN.

GOODNESS, I THINK I'M BEATEN!

TOMOR-ROW, EH?

HOPEFULLY NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.

Bye!

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

TRY TO SHOW UP BEFORE I DO FOR ONCE!

WITH LUCK, THE RECENT OCCURRENCES OF CLOSED SPACE WERE A FLUKE.

NO CHANGE AT THE MOMENT.

HOW'RE THINGS GOING?

I MAY BE WORRYING OVER NOTHING.

THAT'S INTUITIVELY OBVIOUS, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE.

I'VE CONFIRMED AS MUCH MYSELF.

TA (TMP)

THAT MUCH I GUARANTEE.

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SASAKI, SHE'S JUST A SLIGHTLY ECCENTRIC GIRL.

AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD DELIBERATELY ABUSE THAT DISAGREEMENT.

WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT ARE THOSE WHO MIGHT DISAGREE.

I CAN'T IMAGINE KUNIKIDA OR NAKAGAWA HAVE ANYTHING TO GAIN FROM THIS.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MY POINTLESS WORRY IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS.

...NO, FORGET IT.

HOWEVER ...

OH, THOSE TWO ARE HARMLESS.

IT BETTER NOT.

FUN (HMPH)

THE AGENCY WILL TAKE NO SUCH ACTION.

OH, YOU CAN RELAX ON ONE COUNT.

SASAKI-SAN WILL NOT BE HARMED.

IT WAS UNNECES-SARY.

TA (TMP)

FORGET I SAID ANYTHING.

HEH.

I WAS MERELY ATTEMPTING TO DISPEL YOUR CONCERNS.

MY APOL-OGIES.

...OR SO I THOUGHT.

OF COURSE IT WOULDN'T.

HE HOPED "NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN"?

WE JUST HADN'T NOTICED YET.

KOI-ZUMI HAD BEEN NAIVE.

THINGS WERE ALREADY HAPPEN-ING.

ALL OF US HAD ALREADY BEEN TOSSED INTO THE MAEL-STROM.

REGARD-LESS OF WHETHER I KNEW THEM OR NOT...

...EVERY-ONE WAS INVOLVED.

AND IT WASN'T JUST THE SOS BRI-GADE.

BUT IT WOULD TAKE MORE TIME FOR ME TO REALIZE THAT.

SAT-URDAY MORN-ING.

TO (TMP)

9 A.M. IN FRONT OF THE STA-TION.

TO

THINGS WERE JUST BEGIN-NING TO MOVE.

BUT AN OMEN OF WHAT WAS COMING WOULD HAPPEN THAT DAY.

WAS IT JUST AN OMEN?

OR WAS IT A PREDES-TINED COINCI-DENCE ...?

SHAAAAA (FWSHHH)

WE MEET AGAIN.

I'M GENUINELY PLEASED.

HEYA, KYON.

FUU (WHEW) ふぅ

PLENTY OF TIME.

I'VE STILL GOT HALF AN HOUR.

SADLY, I DO SEE A BIT OF FUN IN THIS SITUATION.

THOUGH IT'S MORE "INTERESTING" THAN "EXCITING."

YOU ...!

TON (TMP)

ALTHOUGH YOU MIGHT NOT BE.

HELLO.

SORRY FOR NOT KEEPING IN TOUCH!

HOW'S YOUR LITTLE TIME TRAVELER, ASAHINA-SAN?

SHE KIDNAPPED ASAHINA-SAN...

SHE'S THE ONE THAT SHOWED UP WITH THAT OTHER TIME-TRAVELING GUY!

HOWooo

...CAN SHE SAY THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE?

AW, DON'T MAKE THAT FACE.

WE'VE STOPPED DOING THAT STUFF, YOU KNOW.

LET ME INTRO-DUCE YOU, KYON.

SHE'S AN...

...AC-QUAIN-TANCE, LET'S SAY.

I'VE JUST COME TO KNOW HER AND HAVEN'T SHARED ENOUGH DISCOURSE TO CALL HER A FRIEND YET.

BUT SHE SAYS THE MOST FASCINATING THINGS SOMETIMES.

...OUR ENEMY.

SASAKI ...

BY YOUR FACE, I GUESS YOU'VE MET HER BEFORE.

AND IT PROB-ABLY WASN'T A VERY GOOD MEETING.

...YOU SHOULDN'T HANG OUT WITH JERKS LIKE HER...

SHE'S ...

JUST A GUESS.

THEY'RE A BIT HARD FOR ME TO UNDER-STAND, BUT...

SHE'S TOLD ME THE MOST AMAZING THINGS.

BUT SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MY ENEMY.

WHICH IS RATHER INTER-ESTING.

...BUT I CAN RECOGNIZE THEM— SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I CAN'T ACCEPT THEM...

...JUST THINKING ABOUT THEM IS A NICE DIVERSION.

THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.

AND KYON.

SO I FIGURED WHY NOT INTRODUCE YOU...

SHE TOLD ME SHE WISHED TO OCCUPY A SHARED SPACE OF A RADIUS OF TWO METERS WITH YOU.

I GOT THE FEELING THAT IF I LEFT HER ALONE, SHE'D BE EVEN MORE OF A PROBLEM FOR YOU.

PA (WHAP)

SHE'S... WELL...

UUU (WHOOO)

NOT STRANGE, EXACTLY...

...MORE LIKE QUEER.

UUUUU

DOUN CLOOMO

EVEN A GLANCE AT THIS GIRL WOULD'VE BEEN UNFORGETTABLE.

IT WAS ABSOLUTELY THE FIRST TIME I'D MET HER.

IT SEEMED SOMEHOW FAMILIAR...

BUT WHAT WAS THIS AVALANCHE CHILL THAT I FELT?

WHO ARE YOU?

MOVES VERY SLOWLY.

IN THIS PLACE

TIME ...

I AM— AN OB-SERVER .

AH ...

I AM..

YOU ARE... HE

THERE IS NO MIS-TAKE

THE TEMPER-ATURE TIRESOME

THIS TIME ..

SUOH KUYOH.

SUOH

KUYOH .

DEFINITELY NOT HUMAN!

SHE WAS A GHOST...OR SOMETHING ELSE!

SHE'S NOT SICK, THOUGH. THAT'S JUST THE WAY SHE IS.

SHE DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THE IDEA OF INDIVIDUALITY.

INTER-ESTING, ISN'T SHE?

SHE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT, KYON.

NAGATO? WAIT—

TRYING TO TALK TO HER WAS WAY WORSE THAN TRYING TO TALK TO NAGATO.

STILL...

NAGATO GOT A FEVER AND COLLAPSED, AND THEN I FELT SOME KIND OF...

GOOOOOOOO WHOOOOSH

THAT PHANTOM MANSION THAT APPEARED DURING OUR WINTER TRIP...

JJJJ (WHOOO)

I SEE.

SO IT'S YOU. THE OTHER ALIENS, NOT LIKE NAGATO.

EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL BEINGS UNRELATED TO THE DATA OVERMIND...

...THE MACRO-SPACIAL COSMIC ENTITY.

AH...

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME.

IS THAT ?

WHAT

ALIENS ?

WHICH MEANS— SHE'S WORKING AGAINST NAGATO.

SHE'S ONE OF THE SECOND-RATE ALIENS.

AND ASAHINA-SAN'S COUNTER-PART IS THAT TIME-TRAVELING BASTARD, I'M SURE.

KYOKO TACHI-BANA, THE KID-NAPPER, WAS OPPOSING KOIZUMI'S AGENCY.

A PER-FECTLY MEANING-LESS LINE...

—CON-CLUSION:

...ARE... BEAU-TIFUL...

YOUR EYES ...

THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD SAY, KYON.

BUT THEY'RE ALL I HAVE.

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN GETTING TO KNOW THEM.

YOU'VE GOT SOME WEIRD FRIENDS, SASAKI.

YOU...

...DO YOU KNOW WHAT THESE GUYS REALLY ARE?

UNFORTUNATELY, I'M NOT A NORTH HIGH STUDENT.

NOBODY ELSE WOULD GET CLOSE TO ME.

AND IT WAS QUITE A STORY TOO.

THEY MADE ME LISTEN, AFTER ALL.

I DO.

SEEMS CLOSER TO TRIPLE TROUBLE THAN IT DOES TO THREE OF A KIND.

A LIMITED SUPER-HUMAN.

AN EXTRA-TERRES-TRIAL HUMANOID INTRUDER.

AND A TIME TRAVELER, I BELIEVE.

KUH KUH ...

THEY'RE THE GENUINE ARTICLE.

BUT YOUR REAC-TION CINCHES IT.

HASN'T IT BEEN LONG ENOUGH?

BUT IT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE THIS.

EVEN THOUGH THAT'S JUST GOING TO DRAG THINGS OUT.

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO SKIP THIS "RIDICULOUS ERRAND."

SO I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS THAT TIME-TRAVELING BASTARD'S HERE TOO?

WHERE IS HERE?

DON'T YOU THINK?

A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT?

BAN (BAM)

...WHAT'S THIS?

I WAS ABOUT TO COMPLIMENT YOU FOR MANAGING TO ARRIVE EARLY, BUT...

PEKORI (BOW)
ペコリ
...
IF YOU LIVE AROUND HERE, THIS IS THE OBVIOUS PLACE TO MEET UP.
I PROMISED TO MEET WITH SOME FRIENDS HERE.
IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE.
TAKE CARE OF KYON.
SUZUMIYA-SAN.
IT WAS PRETTY IM-PRES-SIVE.
.TO SEE HARUHI SO DUMB-FOUND-ED
CHIRA (GLANCE)
チラ
!?
UH.. ER..
SURE..
EVEN IN HIGH SCHOOL, HE DOESN'T PUT MUCH EFFORT INTO STUDY-ING, DOES HE?
IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING, HE'LL HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL.

ZO (SHIVER)

WHAT THE ...!?

GIIIN (CLASH)

FEELS LIKE A CONTINENTAL PLATE CRASHING INTO AN OCEAN SHELF...

EMPTINESS...

THAT'S ALL I FELT FROM THAT GIRL.

I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D BEEN GOOD AT READING NAGATO'S EXPRESSION...

...BUT IT LOOKED LIKE I STILL HAD A LOT TO LEARN.

I'M FINE, ASAHINA-SAN.

OH, THANK YOU.

HERE, USE THIS.

KYON-KUN, YOU DON'T LOOK WELL...

SA (FWISH)

ER...

HE DROPPED ME A LINE EARLIER.

OH, RIGHT.

WHEN YOU HAVE TIME, COULD YOU GIVE SUDOH A CALL?

KYON.

I'LL BE GOING.

DON'T YOU THINK HE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN YOU?

WHY WOULD SUDOH CALL YOU ABOUT ME?

?

WAIT A SEC.

HE'S PLANNING THE REUNION.

I GUESS HE WANTS YOU IN CHARGE OF CONTACTING PEOPLE AT NORTH HIGH.

YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE, RIGHT, KYON?

I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING TO MAKE ANYBODY LIKE ME.

I'VE NEVER INVITED AFFECTION.

HARDLY.

HEH HEH.

THAT SO?

NO ...

NOT REAL-LY.

TO (TMP)

WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.

SEE YOU.

ALTHOUGH SHE DOES SEEM A LITTLE CONTRIVED

STILL, SHE IS AWFULLY INTERESTING, CONSIDERING SHE'S ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS.

WHAT A PECULIAR PERSON.

BET SHE HAS MORE FRIENDS THAN YOU.

PROB-ABLY.

THAT'S HOW SHE IS.

I BET SHE'D CONSIDER THAT A COMPLIMENT.

STILL, SASAKI...

IT WAS TRUE THAT SHE WAS A MORE SOCIABLE PERSON THAN ME.

THEY'RE BAD NEWS...

...YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS WITH THAT CROWD.

AFTER ALL, ISN'T IT EASIER TO NOTICE STUFF WHEN THERE'RE MORE PEOPLE LOOKING?

ANYWAY, ABOUT TODAY...

I'VE BEEN THINKING IT'S NOT GOOD TO SPLIT INTO GROUPS OF TWO AND THREE.

TA (TMP)

HEAR THAT, KYON?

JIPORI (GLARE)

AND WE CAN PREVENT SLACKING OFF TOO.

TAN (TMP)

THIS IS THE MOST BASIC OF BASICS...

...SO REMEMBER IT WELL!

DI (FLICK)

THESE MYSTERIOUS THINGS YOU'RE LOOKING FOR... WHAT ARE THEY?

HEY, HARUHI.

...THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF WEIRD THINGS, BUT I DIDN'T CARE ANYMORE.

LIKE SASAKI OR THE NEW CLUB MEMBER PROSPECTS...

SPACE-TIME DISTORTIONS, ALIENS PRETENDING TO BE HUMAN, WHATEVER!

BASICALLY ANYTHING BIZARRE IS FINE!

BA (WHAP)

THAT ALONE WAS STRANGELY ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE EVERYTHING WOULD WORK OUT.

HER CURIOSITY WAS ON FULL BLAST.

IT WAS SO NORMAL THAT IT MADE ME UNEASY.

THAT DAY, ALL FIVE OF US SET OUT AS A GROUP.

AND THUS THE DAY PASSED...

ASAHINA'S EYES SHIMMERED AS SHE WINDOW-SHOPPED.

KOIZUMI GOT BUSY WITH HIS BROWN-NOSING.

NAGATO WAS FORCIBLY DRESSED IN COOL (?) CLOTHING.

SO...

...WAS IT FUN? SURE, OF COURSE.

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

THAT EVE-NING.

GACHA (CLAK)

KYA (SQUEAL)

IT'S A GIRL!

SHE WANTS TO KNOW IF MY BIG BROTHER IS IN!

TO (TMP)

TO

TO

TO

KYON-KUN, TELE-PHONE!

HARUHI...? NO, NAGATO?

WHAT GIRL WOULD CALL ME AT THIS HOUR?

...SO MUCH HAD HAPPENED THAT I WAS JUST TOO SPACED OUT.

NOW I KNOW, BUT THEN ...

UH...

COULD YOU TELL ME YOUR NAME, PLEASE?

...?

WHO IS IT?

CHA (CLICK)

Hello?

M-E, ME.

IT'S ME.

FOR ASAHINA-SAN, THERE WAS THAT NAME-LESS TIME TRAVELER GUY.

AND KUYOH SUOH WAS NAGA-TO'S.

...?

KYOKO TACHIBANA WAS KOIZUMI'S COUNTER-PART.

WHAT DID THAT MAKE SASAKI?

SO I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN.

α—1

THE DISSOCIATION OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA III : END

IT'S ME. M-E, ME.

α—1

Shall I call later?

I'm ever so sorry.

Oh, are you in the bath?

But that's okay. I just called to say hello.

Aww, c mon!

ANYWAY, YOU HAVEN'T INTRODUCED YOURSELF YET.

THAT'S NOT NECES-SARY.

KYU (SQUEAK)

I hope we can be friends for a long time!

HEE HEE!

I might need your help in the future, so thanks in advance.

That's all.

I just wanted to hear my upper-classman's voice.

HUH!?

BUTSU (CLICK)

Bye, now!

I'm hang ing up.

...WHAT WAS UP WITH TODAY?

SOMEONE PUTTING ON A VOICE THEY'D NORMALLY NEVER USE...

AND THEN I THOUGHT.

I'D NEVER HEARD THE VOICE, BUT IT REMINDED ME OF SOMEONE ...

WELL, THAT WAS RUDE.

"UPPER-CLASS-MAN"?

AH, BATHING, ARE YOU?

ALTHOUGH THE FACT THAT YOU PICKED UP THE PHONE SUGGESTS THAT I CAN CONTINUE ANYWAY.

HELLO?

β=1

But Suzumiya-san and the others showed up early.

About this morning— I'd planned to talk about things with you a bit more...

Yep, it's me.

OH, SASAKI.

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

KYU (SQUEAK)

IF YOU WANT TO BE HER TUTOR, BE MY GUEST.

STILL, YOUR LITTLE SISTER'S THE SAME AS EVER.

As for the subject— perhaps it would be better to let Tachibana-san explain it.

...IS THAT YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER THAN I DO.

MY GUESS...

I'D LIKE YOU TO COME TO THE USUAL SPOT AT THE STATION TOMOR-ROW.

YOU DO COME RIGHT TO THE POINT.

IF IT LOOKS LIKE I'M ABOUT TO SLUG HIM, YOU BETTER STOP ME.

THIS JUST GETS BETTER AND BETTER.

HE'LL BE THERE TOO.

WHAT'D YOU CALL HIM? THE SELF-PROCLAIMED TIME-TRAVELING BAST—

That's what every-body's hoping for.

...three of them just want to have a peaceful conver-sation with you.

SO YOU'LL COME?

YOU NEED NOT WORRY, THEN.

FOUR YEARS AGO.

THE FIRST MANIFESTATION OF HARUHI'S SUPER-HUMAN POWER.

SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED FOUR YEARS AGO.

IT WAS QUITE INTRIGUING.

It's still quite confusing to me.

You should just ask them yourselves.

WHAT'D THEY SAY ABOUT IT?

I'M YOUR FRIEND, THAT'S WHY.

I HAVEN'T LOST ANYTHING.

HAVE YOU LOST IT?

SASAKI.

WHY ARE YOU ACTING AS THEIR MOUTHPIECE?

CLEVER ENOUGH, BUT ALSO IGNORANT ENOUGH.

YOU'RE A GREAT LISTENER, THOUGH!

GEE, THANKS.

I KNOW BETTER THAN TO TRY TO WIN AN ARGUMENT WITH YOU.

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SO GULLIBLE YOU'D BE FOOLED BY SOME STRANGER'S INVITATION.

ALTHOUGH YOU ARE PRETTY EASY TO ARGUE DOWN.

DON'T YOU WORRY.

I'LL BE THERE.

Make sure you arrive on time tomorrow.

I'll be hanging up soon.

IT WAS ALL THE MORE CONVENIENT FOR ME THAT THE THREE OF THEM WOULD BE TOGETHER.

I'D BEEN WANTING TO HAVE A CONVERSATION WITH THEM.

β—2:3

I WAS EXPECTING YOU TO CALL, ACTUALLY.

YES.

CHA (CLICK)

THIS IS KOI-ZUMI.

SHE'S PART OF THE MANAGE-MENT OF AN ENEMY ORGANI-ZATION.

OF COURSE.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE NAMED KYOKO TACHI-BANA?

UNFORTU-NATELY, IT IS NOTHING SO EASILY EXPLAINED.

THAT SOUNDS FUN.

DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS HAVE PSYCHIC BATTLES IN CLOSED SPACE.

WHAT KIND OF AN ENEMY ORGANI-ZATION?

...OUR INTERPRE-TATIONS ARE DIFFERENT.

YOU COULD SAY THAT WHILE WE ARE FOUNDED ON SIMILAR CONCEPTS ..

THAT WHOLE HARUHI-IS-GOD IDEA?

...KYOKO TACHIBANA'S FACTION AND MY AGENCY ARE NOT SO VERY DIFFERENT.

HOW-EVER ...

SHE AND HER KIND CANNOT ENTER THE CLOSED SPACE THAT SUZUMIYA-SAN CREATES.

ON THIS POINT, ALL ARE IN AGREE-MENT.

IT IS 100% CERTAIN THAT WE WERE GIVEN OUR POWERS BY SUZUMIYA-SAN.

IT HAS MANY BELIEVERS WITHIN THE AGENCY.

ESSEN-TIALLY, YES.

Yet they believe them-selves to be the rightful group...

Kyoko Tachibana is a represen-tative of those who *did not receive* power from Suzumiya-san.

WHEN THEY SHOULD [redacted] STANDING ASIDE AND WATCHING.

I SYMPATHIZE WITH THEM, BUT...

AND DESPITE THEIR POOR UNDERSTANDING, THEY'RE GETTING INVOLVED ANYWAY.

UNLIKE US, THEY DO NOT THINK OF SUZUMIYA AS THE ULTIMATE AUTHORITY.

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT APPARENTLY THEY WANT TO TALK TO ME.

SASAKI CONTACTED ME.

I'M GOING TO MEET THEM TOMORROW.

You and Suzumiya– [redacted] both very important people to her organization.

LETTING THE TIME TRAVELER TALK HER INTO IT WAS A MISSTEP.

I SHOULD SAY...

...KYOKO TACHIBANA WAS OPPOSED TO THE USE OF KIDNAPPING.

IF I GET KIDNAPPED, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

HER KIND IS EVEN HARDER TO UNDERSTAND THAN THE DATA OVERMIND.

THE DANGEROUS ONE IS NAGATO'S COUNTERPART.

CELL: CALL COMPLETED

NEXT WAS NAGATO.

通話終了 05.41

NOW, THEN.

DO TRY TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

ピッ (BIP)

HEH.

I SEE.

NAGATO, IT'S ME.

TOMORROW I'M GOING TO MEET THAT ALIEN WE SAW TODAY.

カチャッ (CLICK)

.....

AT PRESENT, THE RISK IS LOW.

ACCORDING TO SASAKI AND KOIZUMI, THEY'RE MOSTLY PEACEFUL.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The Data Overmind is currently dedicating all resources to analysis of them.

Low enough to be ignored.

Were you able to say anything to that Kuyoh girl?

ONLY THAT IT IS A MACROSCOPIC INFORMATION CONSCIOUS-NESS.

NOT YET.

HAVE YOU FIGURED ANY-THING OUT?

Her cognitive processes remain unclear.

I was [redacted] to share basic concepts.

THEIR DESIGNATION HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY DETERMINED.

Because from our perspective, they came from the heavens.

The Heavenly Canopy Domain.

β—4

AA

IT WAS LIKE SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO SLOW ME DOWN.

MAYBE IT WAS SOME KIND OF WARN-ING.

AA

...RAIN, HUH?

SAA (SHH)

SAAAA

HEY, WE'RE OVER HERE.

MORNING, KYON.

AA

"ESPECIALLY FOR HIM," HE SAID.

HE'S IN THE CAFÉ.

"LIKE HELL I'M WAITING IN THE RAIN.

SAAA'

MORNING.

WHERE'S THE TIME-TRAVELING JERK?

BASHA (SPLASH)

AND IT'S ABOUT TIME.

I EXPECT HE'S FINDING IT HARD TO STAY IN THE CAFÉ.

SHALL WE GO?

HEH HEH...

LOOKS LIKE YOUR FRIENDSHIP'S GETTING DEEPER ALL THE TIME.

WHAT A DICK.

WAS THIS SUPPOSED TO CHEER ME UP?

BASHA

珈琲屋 夢

BASHA

IT WAS THE SAME PLACE THE SOS BRIGADE ALWAYS MET UP.

OH.

BASHA

SIGN: DREAM COFFEE SHOP

SO, A LOT'S HAP-PENED.

BUT I AM TRULY ELATED.

DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY?

KYON.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO SCARY.

JUST LISTEN TO WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY.

TAN (BANG)

WE'RE FINALLY STANDING AT THE STARTING LINE.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR THIS OPPOR-TUNITY.

NAMES ARE MERELY IDENTI-FIERS OF CONVE-NIENCE.

CALL ME WHATEVER YOU LIKE.

IT'S MEANING-LESS.

LET'S START WITH YOUR NAME.

TCH...

IN THIS DAY AND AGE, IT'S STILL USEFUL TO HAVE A NAME TO CALL SOMEONE.

EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOUR REAL ONE.

YES, WELL, STILL.

KOHON (COUGH)

YES, NOW ON TO BUSI-NESS.

AND THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT IS...

HRM...

YOU HEARD HIM.

SO NOW THAT WE'VE FINISHED OUR INTRO-DUCTIONS...

FUJI-WARA.

THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN CALL ME.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOT HARUHI SUZUMIYA-SAN...

...BUT RATHER SASAKI-SAN WHO IS THE TRUE DIVINE BEING.

I MEAN EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.

IS THERE ANY PART OF IT THAT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

WHAT...

...DID YOU SAY?

I HOPE I NEVER SEE MORI-SAN EVER AGAIN.

BUT THOSE GUYS ARE TERRIFY-ING.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER IF NOT FOR KOIZUMI-SAN.

I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TELL YOU FOR AGES.

WHEW, I FINALLY GOT IT OUT.

...WE MUST WATCH OVER SASAKI-SAN.

JUST AS KOIZUMI-SAN HAS BEEN TASKED WITH PROTECTING SUZUMIYA-SAN...

IT'S TRUE.

AND NOW I'VE FINALLY GOTTEN EVERYONE TOGETHER!

IN ORDER TO AVOID TOTAL IDENTITY COLLAPSE, I HAD TO DO THIS!

BUWAA (FWOOSH)

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE EXPER-IENCED OVER THE PAST YEAR?

I'M NOT JUST GONNA BUY THAT, YOU KNOW.

ほうっ…
HOU (WHEW)

I WAS SO WORRIED I COULD HARDLY STAND IT!

THE ALIEN AND THE TIME TRAVELER BOTH WENT TO SUZUMIYA-SAN'S SIDE...

GIN (GLARE)

SO KOIZUMI CALLS THAT BEING A PSEUDO-GOD—SO WHAT?

IF HARUHI ISN'T A WALKING MYSTERY ZONE, THEN NONE OF THAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED.

SA-SAKI!

WHAT DO YOU THINK!?

DON (SLAM)

ONE REALITY.

THAT'S ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.

BUT REALITY IS NOT LIMITED TO THE SINGULAR.

BUT I ALSO HATE MYSELF WHEN I LET THAT KIND OF PERSON GET TO ME.

WHAT I HATE MOST OF ALL ARE SELF-CENTERED, PUSHY PEOPLE.

I TRY TO LIVE MY LIFE SO AS NOT TO CAUSE OTHER PEOPLE TROUBLE.

MM...

TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE.

THIS IS A NATION OF LAWS, AND KIDNAPPING IS A MAJOR CRIME!

BUT TURNING THOSE IDEAS INTO REALITY IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

NO ONE'S IDEAS CAN BE LIMITED.

YOU CAN THINK WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

THAT WAS A BIG STEP.

IT DID CONVEY THE FACT OF OUR EXIS-TENCE TO YOU, AFTER ALL.

...SO IT DIDN'T GO VERY WELL.

IT INVOLVED FORCEFUL INTER-VENTION BY THE FUTURE...

BUT IT WASN'T A WASTE.

...I APOLO-GIZE FOR THAT.

I KNEW THAT I WASN'T ALONE.

AND I KNEW THAT THE CAUSE WAS A SINGLE PERSON.

...I SUDDENLY REALIZED I POSSESSED SOME KIND OF POWER.

FOUR YEARS AGO...

I KNEW WITHOUT EVEN THINKING ABOUT IT THAT YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GAVE THIS TO ME.

THAT WAS SASAKI-SAN.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE WERE PUZZLED.

BECAUSE JUST AS WE WERE DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTACT SASAKI-SAN...

ALL OF THEM HAD HAD THE SAME REALIZATION I DID.

I IMME-DIATELY STARTED SEARCHING FOR YOU.

IN THE PROCESS, I MET MY COMRADES.

BUT IT WASN'T INTERESTED IN SASAKI-SAN.

THEY BELIEVED IN THE APOTHEOSIS OF ONE SUZUMIYA-SAN.

AND IT SEEMED VERY SIMILAR TO OURS.

...ANOTHER ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN FORMED.

BUT THEY BELIEVED THAT WE WERE THE MISTAKEN ONES...

WE MET SEVERAL TIMES TO TRY AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE.

WE WERE CONFUSED.

THE AGENCY, I ASSUME?

SO?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

AND THAT BRINGS US TO NOW.

THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN.

COMMUNICATION BROKE DOWN.

SOMEHOW THERE WAS A MISTAKE, AND IT WENT TO THE WRONG PERSON.

AND WE WANT YOUR COOPER-ATION.

IT'S BEST FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO CORRECT THAT MISTAKE.

WE BELIEVE ...

...THE POWER HARUHI SUZUMIYA-SAN CURRENTLY HAS RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO SASAKI-SAN.

I DON'T WANT THIS STRANGE POWER.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAYS, BUT

SA-SAKI.

I'D VERY MUCH PREFER TO ABSTAIN.

I'M SURE IT WOULD CAUSE ME A LOT OF PSYCHO-LOGICAL DISTRESS.

IF YOU'LL PARDON MY SAYING SO. I'M AN INTROVERT.

SUCH AWESOME POWER WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR ME.

DO YOU WANT TO LET HARUHI SUZUMIYA-SAN HAVE THAT POWER FOR-EVER?

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT!?

BAN (BANG)

YOU HEARD HER.

YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP.

...THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE UNDER HER CONTROL.

AND IT WON'T BE JUST YOU...

DO YOU WANT TO BE CONSTANTLY MANIPULATED BY HER?

YOU WOULD NEVER DISTORT THE WORLD— I CAN TELL!

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KEEP LIVING YOUR LIFE.

BA (WHAM)

SASAKI-SAN, YOU'RE FAR BETTER SUITED TO THIS!

HARUHI'S GOT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COMMON SENSE HERSELF.

...IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO CHANGE ANY-THING.

I UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, BUT...

IF YOU GET NAGATO OR HARUHI ANGRY, THINGS COULD GET REALLY BAD.

I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD JUST BACK OFF.

REALITY'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE JUST BECAUSE YOU START SAYING SASAKI SHOULD BE GOD.

SHE'S NOT GOING TO JUST DESTROY THE WORLD FOR NO REASON.

BUT IF IT WERE SASAKI, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO ANY-MORE.

FOLLOW-ING HER AROUND AND FIXING ALL THAT DAMAGE IS REALLY HARD, RIGHT?

TAN (THMP)

THAT'S WHY!

I WANT TO MAKE SURE SUZUMIYA-SAN NEVER USES HER TRANS-FORMATIVE POWERS!

HAVE YOU EVEN COME TO A CON-SENSUS?

SO WHAT DO THESE TWO THINK?

I JUST WANT STABILITY IN THE WORLD...

...I WANT IT WITH ALL MY HEART!

THEY HAVEN'T BEEN THE LEAST BIT COOPERA-TIVE.

THIS IS ANOTHER BOTTLE-NECK.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I HAVEN'T FALLEN SO FAR AS TO HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH COMMON-ERS FROM THE PAST.

..BUT IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS WRONG

I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME-THING TO BE GAINED HERE...

OF COURSE NOT.

"CO-OPERA-TION?"

UGH, I SWEAR!

GATAN (CLATTER)

WHETHER IT BE SUZUMIYA OR SASAKI.

SO LONG AS THE POWER EXISTS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHOSE IT IS.

IT'LL BE FASTER FOR YOU TO JUST EXPERIENCE IT DIRECTLY. THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY.

GIVE ME YOUR HAND.

...?

JUST DO WHAT SHE ASKS, WILL YOU?

KYON.

NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES.

SW (SHF)

WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A MOMENT.

THERE.

YOU CAN OPEN YOUR EYES.

WHA...

CLOSED SPACE.

THAT'S WHAT KOIZUMI-SAN'S FACTION CALLS IT.

TO (TAP)

LET'S TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE, SHALL WE?

IT'S DIFFERENT ...

BUT THIS WORLD HAS A SOFT, CREAM-COLORED SKY.

THE SKY OF THE CLOSED SPACE I KNOW WAS AN EERIE GRAY COLOR.

AND MORE THAN THAT...

THEY DON'T APPEAR HERE.

THEY NEVER EXISTED HERE AT ALL.

YUP, THAT'S RIGHT.

THE INSTRUMENTS OF HARUHI'S SUBCONSCIOUS.

THE BLUE-WHITE GIANTS, THE MASSES OF DESTRUCTIVE ENERGY...

IT IS.

IT'S THE SAME CLOSED SPACE YOU KNOW.

SO THIS ISN'T ... ... CLOSED SPACE?

THE FLAVOR IS A REFLECTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

IT'S LIKE ...

... DIFFERENT PEOPLE MAKING THE SAME DISH.

IT IS NOT A PLACE SUZUMIYA-SAN CONSTRUCTED.

THIS IS SASAKI-SAN'S CLOSED SPACE.

WHEN I'M HERE, I FEEL CALM.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT'S SO QUIET, AND THE AIR IS SO PEACEFUL.

WHICH PLACE MAKES YOU FEEL SAFER?

IT WILL BE UNSHAKABLY STABLE

SASAKI-SAN HAS NO DESIRE TO DESTROY OR REMAKE THE WORLD.

WITH EVERYTHING REMAINING AS IT IS.

WHICH DO YOU THINK IS BETTER?

SO I ASK YOU AGAIN.

OR A PERSON WITH COMMON SENSE, WHO WON'T DESTROY ANYTHING AT ALL...?

A GOD THAT COULD CARELESSLY DESTROY THE WORLD?

THE DISSOCIATION OF MARUHI SUZUMIYA IV : END

WHY?

SASAKI CREATED THIS PLACE...?

β—4

THERE IS NO REASON.

SASAKI-SAN DOESN'T WANT TO REMAKE OR DESTROY THE WORLD.

THAT'S THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE FROM SUZUMIYA-SAN.

IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

THIS PLACE ISN'T A TIME-LIMITED, WALLED-OFF SPACE.

TO BE HONEST, SHE'S JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL.

I'LL ADMIT THAT SHE DOES MAKE THINGS COMPLICATED SOMETIMES, BUT...

HARUHI'S GOT COMMON SENSE TOO.

...SHE WILL NEVER TRY TO REMAKE THE WORLD AGAIN.

I CAN SAY THIS MUCH WITH CERTAINTY ...

NOT KOIZUMI-SAN AND NOT THE TIME TRAVELER.

BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE CAN SAY THAT FOR SURE.

YOU'RE CER-TAINLY THE TRUST-ING TYPE.

YOU WANT TO TRANSFER HARUHI'S POWER TO SASAKI?

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

夢

IF BOTH YOU AND SASAKI-SAN AGREE...

NOT NECES-SARILY.

IF YOU'LL COOP-ERATE WITH US...

SHUBAA (FLASH)

TON (TMP)

!

THAT'S ALL I'M ASKING FOR.

SIMPLE, ISN'T IT?

HEY.

WEL-COME BACK, I GUESS?

KA (FLASH)

WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW?

...

SO, DID YOU SEE IT?

MY SUP-POSED INTERIOR WORLD?

YOU WERE JUST LIKE THAT FOR MAYBE TEN SECONDS.

NOTHING, REALLY.

ANY THOUGHTS ...?

...

YEAH.

I THOUGHT NOT.

HEH HEH...

THAT'S KIND OF EMBAR-RASSING.

NOT... REALLY.

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF PROS AND CONS!

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

SHOULD I HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KYON?

PLEASE, SASAKI-SAN.

WOULD YOU PLEASE THINK POSITIVELY ABOUT THIS?

THE TIME TRAV-ELER, FUJI-WARA.

AND THE OTHER TWO...

SHE PROBABLY WOULD BE A LOT SAFER THAN HARUHI. BUT NO...

...THAT DIDN'T MATTER.

TAKING THEIR SIDE WAS TOO ABSURD TO CONTEMPLATE.

I WASN'T EVEN GONNA CONSIDER IT.

SASAKI.

I WANT TO STAY YOUR FRIEND.

BUT THERE'S A PROBLEM RIGHT NOW...

YOUR COFFEE, MISS...

PROBLEM?

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

GASHA (GRAB)

CHA (CLINK)

...HUH?

EXCUSE ME, MISS?

FU FU

ooo

MIGHT I ASK YOU TO LET ME GO?

I CANNOT FINISH SERVING YOUR ORDER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...

...IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

KIMIDORI-SAN?

STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AREN'T ALLOWED TO WORK PART-TIME, AFTER ALL.

PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESI-DENT.

I WORK HERE PART-TIME.

PI (CHIP)

ENJOY YOUR COFFEE!

ANY-WAY, WHY ...?

WAIT, THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

DON'T YOU CARE IF NAGATO ...?

HEH.

UH...

AN UPPER-CLASS-MAN AT MY SCHOOL.

WHO WAS THAT?

HA HA!

HA HA!

THIS IS A FARCE AMONG FARCES!

YOU DON'T SEE SOMETHING THIS COMPLETELY ABSURD EVERY DAY.

HEH HEH ...

HA!

NOW THIS IS SOMETHING WORTH SEEING!

KO (CLICK)

?

SUU (SWSH)

すう

WHY DID SHE EVEN COME HERE?

...

CHA (CHK)

IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE TO TALK A LITTLE MORE.

SASAKI-SAN, I'LL SEE YOU SOON, ALL RIGHT?

HNNNN!

I'M PRETTY TIRED MYSELF.

KOPOPO (GLUBUB)

SO THAT'S IT FOR TODAY, THEN.

I HONESTLY DON'T WANT THIS TO DRAG ON TOO LONG.

THE NEXT NATIONAL MOCK EXAM IS COMING UP.

SO WE'VE GOT TO SETTLE THINGS QUICKLY.

KYON.

I THINK I'LL BE CONTACT-ING YOU SOON.

SHE WAS THE SAME SASAKI SHE'D BEEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I WAS GLAD IT WAS HER.

I COMPLETELY AGREED

THAT'S FOR SURE.

NOT THAT I WANTED TO KNOW.

WHAT WERE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

SO THEY WERE STAYING BEHIND?

NOT THEN.

"ZAAAAA (SHHHH)

NOT...

WHEN I'M HERE, I FEEL CALM.

FUJI-WARA— THAT'S WHAT YOU CAN CALL ME.

I'D VERY MUCH PREFER TO ABSTAIN.

CA... A LO... PSYCH... LOGICAL DISTRESS

RARARA

GYURARARA (WHIRRR)

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT!?

SUCH AWESOME POWER WOULD BE

IF YOU... PARD... MY S... SO. I... INTRO...

...SASAKI-SAN WHO IS THE TRUE DIVINE BEING.

AT PRESENT, THE RISK IS LOW.

HELLO?

THIS IS KOIZUMI.

α—2

OH, IT'S YOU.

ABOUT THAT GROUP TODAY— WHAT THE HELL WERE THEY?

...we still share a basic world-view.

We can still reason with Kyoko Tachibana.

Though that time traveler may have convinced her to do something unwise...

THAT'S A QUESTION I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU...

FOR MY PART, I'M ONLY HOPING TO AVOID ANY POINTLESS FIGHTING.

Compared with her, time travelers are practically adorable.

She's probably the only one of her kind on Earth.

Her movements are completely unreadable.

THAT OTHER T.F.E.I., THOUGH ...

ASAHINA-SAN IS UNDER OUR PROTECTION.

I QUITE AGREE.

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT GOES FOR ALL TIME TRAVELERS.

WELL, OBVIOUSLY ASAHINA-SAN'S ADORABLE.

It would be nice if the time travelers could work out their differences among themselves.

However... we never wanted the conflicts of the future to be brought into the past.

We need only to wait for our opponent to take action.

And no matter what, we still have Suzumiya-san on our side.

NAGATO-SAN AND I WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

α—3

SO WE WERE JUST GOING TO WAIT.

I DIDN'T NEED TO TALK TO HER ABOUT ANYTHING AT THIS HOUR.

GACHAN (CLACK)

NO, THERE WAS NO NEED.

SO, WHAT NEXT? SHOULD I CALL NAGATO?

FUU (SIGH)

I NEEDED TO GIVE MY BODY SOME REST...

AND TOMOR-ROW WAS SUNDAY.

GORON (FLOP)

IF KUYOH WERE SOME KIND OF DEATH GODDESS THAT WAS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT...

...NAGATO WOULDN'T JUST STAND THERE AND DO NOTHING.

α—4

AND THEN MONDAY FINALLY CAME.

SOMETIMES IT WAS GOOD TO HAVE A DAY FREE FROM HARUHI'S MEDDLING.

WITH NOTHING TO DO, I PASSED THE DAY LAZING AROUND.

THE NEXT DAY, SUNDAY.

α—5

WAI
ワイ
WAI
ワイ
WAI (CHATTER)
ワイ

I WAS THINKING IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE LUNCH IN THE CLUB-ROOM FOR ONCE.

ALREADY DONE EATING?

KON (KNOCK)
KON

CAN I COME IN?

...SHE'S A MINION OF THE GUYS THAT TRIED TO FREEZE US TO DEATH LAST WINTER, RIGHT?

GI (CREAK)

HEY, NAGATO.

ABOUT THAT KUYOH ALIEN...

IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY ARE INTERESTED IN HARUHI SUZUMIYA'S DATA ALTERATION ABILITIES.

...YES.

...WHAT NOW?

THE HEAVENLY ...

THEY OF THE HEAV-ENLY CANOPY DOMAIN ...

THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THEY DISPATCHED A HUMANOID INTERFACE TO THIS WORLD.

...LIKE UP THERE?

HEAVENLY..

IT IS A SIG-N FICANT STEP FOR-WARD.

UNTIL NOW, WE HAD NO CONCEPT BY WHICH TO REFER TO THEM.

THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN.

THAT IS THE TERM THAT WAS PROVISIONALLY ASSIGNED TO THEM.

NO SUCH INDICATION IS VISIBLE AT THIS TIME.

DO YOU THINK THOSE JERKS...

...ARE GONNA TOSS US INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION AGAIN?

IT IS PREDICTED THAT DIRECT PHYSICAL CONTACT WILL PREDOMINATE FOR SOME TIME.

AN INTERFACE CAPABLE OF VERBAL CONTACT HAS REVEALED ITSELF.

OR TO MIKURU ASAHINA ...

...AND ITSUKI KOIZUMI.

I WILL NOT ALLOW HARM TO COME TO YOU OR HARUHI SUZUMIYA.

I WILL DEFEND AGAINST ATTACKS FROM THE INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED KUYOH SUOH.

あんぐ
ANGU (NOM)

IT'S NO FUN JUST BEING PROTECTED ALL THE TIME.

YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE ANY CONCERN FOR YOURSELF, BUT...

...I DO, AND SO DOES HARUHI.

OR YOU, NAGATO.

THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO.

.....

MY ABILITIES MIGHT BE AS TINY AS A SPECK OF SPACE DUST, BUT...

...I KNOW I CAN DO SOME-THING.

HEH...

TO THINK THAT SILENCE COULD MAKE ME FEEL SO AT EASE...

THERE WAS NO COMPARISON WITH THE DAY SHE'D FIRST INVITED ME UP TO HER APARTMENT.

WAIT JUST A MINUTE.

UH... I GUESS.

YOU KNOW THERE'S A MATH QUIZ TOMORROW, RIGHT?

GUI (GRAB)

GRAB YOUR MATH TEXTBOOK AND GET OVER HERE.

HOW CAN YOU BE SUCH A SLACKER?

TA (TAP)

A-HA!

YOU'RE BRINGING DOWN THE SOS BRIGADE AVERAGE WITH THINGS LIKE THIS.

THAT FIGURES.

SO YOU FORGOT ABOUT IT, HUH?

YOU SLEPT THROUGH THE LAST HALF!

WHAT'S THIS?

SHOW ME YOUR NOTE-BOOK.

WHERE ARE YOUR NOTES?

THIS FORMULA TOO

THIS IS DEFINITELY GONNA BE ON THE QUIZ, SO REMEMBER IT.

.....

数学I

YOU SLEPT THROUGH THE LAST HALF OF LITERATURE CLASS.

SO WHAT?

...AND GETTING CLUB MATE-RIALS READY.

...CLEAN-ING AND REAR-RANGING MY ROOM...

LIKE TUTORING THE NEIGHBOR KID...

BOOK: MATH 1

I WAS BUSY WITH STUFF YESTER-DAY.

HMPH!

IF I DECIDE IT'S OKAY TO SLEEP, THEN I'LL SLEEP.

YOU'VE BEEN IN THE BRIGADE FOR A YEAR NOW, HAVEN'T YOU?

HMPH.

AT LEAST FIGURE OUT WHAT I'M DOING WITH YOUR OWN HEAD, WILL YOU?

MATE-RIALS?

WHAT KIND OF MATE-RIALS?

YOU THINK YOU CAN BE THEIR UPPER-CLASSMAN LIKE THAT?

WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WHEN WE GET NEW MEMBERS?

THIS IS WHY YOU'RE STILL SUCH A LOW-LEVEL MEMBER.

YEAH, YEAH.

YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO READ YOUR BRIGADE CHIEF'S INTENTIONS.

I WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT RUNNING INTO TACHI-BANA AND THE REST ON SATUR-DAY MORN-ING.

BUT THERE WAS NO POINT IN WOR-RYING ABOUT IT.

BUT HOW?

SO SHE WAS STILL PLANNING TO RECRUIT NEW BRIGADE MEMBERS.

HMPH...

I HADN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE MATH QUIZ.

I WAS JUST PLANNING TO ASK KUNIKIDA ABOUT IT TOMORROW.

...IT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER ANYMORE.

BUT I'D GOTTEN HELP FROM HARUHI, SO...

TA (DASH)

QUIT SPACING OUT AND LET'S GO.

MIKURU-CHAN AND THE OTHERS ARE WAITING!

WE'VE BEEN WAITING!

ER, NOT ME, I MEAN...

UGH.

OH, SUZUMIYA-SAN, KYON-KUN!

TA

THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR YOU.

ZAWA

UM, THEY'VE BEEN SHOWING UP FOR THE LAST HALF HOUR...

ZAWA (CHATTER)

...OH, MAN.

YES!

ARE YOU GUYS... HOPING TO JOIN THE CLUB?

FRESH FACES GREETED ME EVERY-WHERE I LOOKED.

AROUND TEN OF THEM.

HURRY AND CHANGE INTO YOUR MAID OUTFIT!

BA (WHAP)

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MIKURU-CHAN?

KI (SCREE)

HEY, KYON!

HA WA WA WA ...

QUIT SPAC-ING OUT!

DO DO DO DO

YOU'RE OUR MASCOT, AFTER ALL!

DO (STOMP)

KEEP 'EM HERE, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO USE A TRANQUILIZER DART!

DON'T LET ANYONE ESCAPE!

PAAA (BEAM)

Although we're a little flustered today.

First, let's all be happy for this chance!

I'M GLAD YOU ALL CAME.

THERE'S ONLY ONE MAID THAT WILL SERVE YOU FREE TEA...

LOOK ALL OVER THE NATION, IF YOU LIKE.

OUR BRIGADE HAS AN EXCELLENT MAID AS WELL AS AN ERRAND BOY.

...AND SHE'S RIGHT HERE IN THE SOS BRIGADE!!

BA

OOOOOOOOH!!!
PECHI (CLAP)
PECHI
PECHI
PECHI
PECHI
PECHI
?
PACHI (CLAP)
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI

(WHOOOO)

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI

WAIT, UNPRECE-DENTED? NEVER BEFORE ...?

WASN'T THIS A TOTALLY UNPRECE-DENTED WEL-COMING?

WHAT WAS UP WITH THIS REACTION?

IT FELT LIKE A CONTRADICTION, BUT AT THE SAME TIME I KNEW IT...

...I'D NEVER MET HER BEFORE.

PACHI (CLAP)

PACHI

NO...

PACHI

PACHI

HAD I SEEN THIS GIRL BEFORE?

PACHI

AND I WAS FILLED WITH THE SENSE THAT SOME HUGE SWITCH HAD BEEN FLIPPED.

SPRING IS THE SEASON OF ENCOUNTERS.

THE DISSOCIATION OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA V : END

α—6

OKAY, EVERY-BODY!

ASPIRING TO ENTER THE SOS BRIGADE TAKES ADMIRABLE COURAGE.

THE STUDENT COUNCIL'S COMPLAIN-ING STOPPED US FROM DOING ANY REAL ADVER-TISING...

BATSU (WHAM)

...BUT I KNEW!

I KNEW THAT GUTSY FRESH-MEN WERE OUT THERE!

BI (JAB)

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO COME OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL!

YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELF SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHER FRESH-MEN!

ZAWA

ZAWAA (MURMUR)

ALL BRIGADE MEMBERS MUST BE AT A CERTAIN LEVEL.

UFU FU...

BUT THAT ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH.

WHAT?

UM... I HAVE A QUES-TION.

KURU (TWIRL)

ANY QUES-TIONS?

KO (CLICK)

WHEW.

WHAT DO WE DO HERE?

AH HA HA...

I'M EXCITED TO BE HERE, BUT...

PON (PAT)

POLISH YOUR SKILLS AND TRY AGAIN LATER.

BOSO (WHISPER)

UNFORTUNATELY YOU FAILED TO PASS THE FIRST STAGE OF THE BRIGADE ENTRANCE TEST.

IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY I THINK OF NOTHING ELSE.

ZA (STEP) "H" "!"

AS THE CHIEF OF THE SOS BRIGADE, I HAVE A DUTY TO OVERLOAD THE WORLD WITH FUN.

HUH?

BAA (WHAM)

IF WE DON'T PROGRESS EVERY YEAR, WE'LL START TO DECLINE!

THUS, I CANNOT AFFORD TO COMPROMISE, NOT EVEN WITH NEW MEMBERS!

NEITHER I NOR THE SOS BRIGADE WILL FALL BY THE WAYSIDE.

AND THAT'S HOW...

...THE SOS BRIGADE THWARTED THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CUNNING PLAN.

BOARD: EVILDOER / WAY / MEMORIZE

...NOR WILL WE EVER!

WE HAVEN'T SO FAR...

WAA (CHEER)

DIS-MISSED!

I'M SURE YOU ALL HAVE PREPA-RATIONS TO MAKE, SO WE'LL END HERE!

ONLY COME TOMOR-ROW IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT!

KATA
KATA
KATA
KATA (TAP)
WHAT'S THIS BRIGADE ENTRANCE TEST THING?
DON'T YOU FEEL BAD FOR THAT GUY?
WE DON'T NEED BRIGADE MEMBERS THAT GET DISCOUR-AGED SO EASILY.
ASKING A QUESTION LIKE THAT MEANS HE'S NOT READY.
HEY, HARUHI.
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
THERE WASN'T ANYBODY WHO COULD BE A NEW MASCOT ANYWAY.
NOT REALLY.
SO ... DID YOU SPOT ANYBODY WHO MEASURED UP?
I MEAN, LIKE...
... TOTALLY NEW, UNIQUE INDIVID-UALS...
BUT I THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOME WHO HAVE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ATTRIBUTES.

IT'LL PROBABLY END UP A PROCESS OF ELIM-INATION!

SO I'M CREATING AN ENTRANCE TEST TO CORRECTLY IDENTIFY THEM.

I WANT PEOPLE WHO'LL BRING A BREATH OF FRESH AIR INTO THE BRIGADE.

PEOPLE WHOSE THINKING IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MINE.

YEAH. YEAH.

I WAS WORKING ON IT LAST NIGHT AT HOME TOO.

WHAT I'M DOING NOW IS CREATING THE WRITTEN PORTION OF THE TEST.

Koi-zumi.

I just wanna ask— are any of those freshmen ...

I WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING ELSE...

WELL, CONSIDERING HOW THEY'D BE TREATED ONCE THEY JOIN, GUESS THERE'S NO POINT BEING OVERLY NICE TO THEM NOW.

SU (SHF)

At the very least, no espers, aliens, or time travelers.

You may rest assured.

There are no secret identities among them.

We investigated all the entering freshmen, after all.

I do.

PACHIN (CLAP)

I hope you have good reasons to believe that.

I'LL NEED TO GET ENOUGH TEA FOR EVERY-ONE.

And if one were a time traveler, I'd want to capture them.

Sadly, that probability seems very low.

If one of them were an interface like Kuyoh-san, Nagato-san would surely have reacted.

FUWAA
OYAWWND
ふわあ…

She won't just let everybody in, so...

They will come from whomever Suzumiya-san admits as a member.

There are no problematic individuals at present.

As for what problems remain...

And how.

The question is who she will choose.

I can't help but feel bad for those poor, naively courageous freshmen.

It will be more than enough if even one makes it in.

IT WASN'T THAT I WISHED FOR CATASTROPHE TO STRIKE MY LIFE, I JUST...

OR IF A METEOR SUDDENLY FELL AND CREATED A DISASTER.

...LIKE IF A MISSILE FROM SOME OTHER COUNTRY WERE TO SUDDENLY STRIKE.

...I WOULD FIND MYSELF THINKING OF TRULY ODD THINGS

SOMETIMES, WHEN THINGS GOT TOO BORING.

SCENE 5

β—5·6

YOU'RE READING TOO MANY MANGA AND NOVELS.

KYON, THAT'S MODERN ENTERTAINMENT SYNDROME.

...THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO ENTER-TAINING.

ALL THOSE CRAZY EVENTS ARE JUST FICTION...

I JUST NOW MADE IT UP.

I'M NOT SURPRISED YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT BEFORE.

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU WAIT, ALIENS ARE NOT GOING TO ATTACK.

IN OTHER WORDS, REALITY IS BUILT UPON HARD-AND-FAST LAWS.

LOOK, KYON.

IF WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT PROBABILITY, THEN SURE, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

TAKE THIS WALL.

THE PROBABILITY OF A METEOR HITTING THE EARTH ISN'T ZERO, AFTER ALL.

HOW DO YOU KNOW?

DID YOU SAY PROBA-BILITY?

PROBA-BILITY?

BUT YOU'RE WRONG.

I CAN SEE YOU'RE ABOUT TO SAY THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

SAY YOU CHARGED RIGHT INTO IT.

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY YOU COULD PASS RIGHT THROUGH IT.

...DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF AN INSULATOR THAT SHOULD NEVER LET AN ELECTRON PASS THROUGH IT...

AT THE QUANTUM LEVEL...

IT'S CALLED THE TUNNELING EFFECT.

...IT HAPPENS THAT ELECTRONS SOMETIMES DO PASS THROUGH SUCH OBJECTS AND APPEAR IN A DIFFERENT PLACE.

UH...

WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT AGAIN?

OF COURSE, THE ODDS ARE SO LOW THAT IF YOU TRIED TO DO IT ONCE EVERY SECOND, YOU'D STILL NEVER DO IT IN FIFTEEN BILLION YEARS.

YOUR BODY IS MADE UP OF PARTICLES, AND THE PROBABILITY THAT THEY COULD PASS THROUGH THE WALL IS NOT ZERO.

THESE ARE MY MEMORIES FROM A CERTAIN DAY, DURING MY LAST YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IF YOU THINK THIS DOESN'T MATTER, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT OUR OTHER CONVER-SATIONS ...

WE TALKED LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME.

...SENTI-MENTAL THINKING IS MERE NOISE.

I ALWAYS WANT TO BE RATIONAL AND LOGICAL.

TO ACCEPT REALITY AS IT IS...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SOMEONE WOULD QUESTION WHETHER OR NOT THEY'RE ATTRACTIVE.

THERE WAS A PERSON A LONG TIME AGO WHO SAID SO.

IT WAS A VERY EVOCATIVE PHRASE, SO I REMEMBER IT EVEN NOW.

PARTICULARLY FEELINGS OF LOVE, WHICH ARE PRACTICALLY A KIND OF MENTAL ILLNESS

...THAT'S NOT LOVE.

SOME OF THEM CERTAINLY SEEM TO BE AFFECTIONATE TO THEIR CHILDREN, BUT...

JUST LOOK AT WILD ANIMALS.

SO WHAT IS IT, THEN?

HEH.

KYON.

KYON?

JUST INSTINCT.

IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SLEEP?

SHE WENT RUNNING OFF SOME-WHERE, AS USUAL.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHERE SHE'S HEADED MYSELF.

WHERE IS SHE?

I'M SUR-PRISED NOBODY NUDGED YOU.

YOU GUYS SURE ARE ON THE SAME WAVE-LENGTH.

YOU AND SUZUMIYA-SAN EVEN DOZE OFF AT THE SAME TIME.

HAVE YOU SEEN SASAKI-SAN RECENT-LY?

WHAT?

HEY, KYON, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

I SAW HER THERE.

A WHILE AGO, AROUND THE BEGINNING OF APRIL...

...I TOOK THE NATIONAL MOCK EXAMS.

AND I START-ED THINK-ING. NEXT TIME, I'D BEAT HER!

SHE COULD BE MY TEM-PORARY RIVAL.

I DIDN'T TALK TO HER OR ANYTHING, THOUGH.

HIGHER THAN MINE.

HER SCORE WAS... WHAT YOU'D EXPECT.

SHE'S REALLY CUTE.

SMART TOO.

WE DID NOT.

SASAKI, EH?

YOU MEAN THAT GIRL THAT GOT ALONG SO WELL WITH KYON?

SASAKI SAID YOU WERE WEIRD TOO.

HOW APPRO-PRIATE

BUT IT WAS LIKE SHE WAS DOING IT ON PURPOSE.

A LITTLE STRANGE, HON-ESTLY.

IT'S LIKE SHE IS VERY CARE-FUL NOT TO GO PAST ITS EDGES.

I'M NOT VERY SELF-AWARE, BUT SHE'S DIFFERENT.

BUT SHE KNOWS IT AND FITS HERSELF INTO THAT FRAME.

DID SHE?

I THINK THERE'S A DIF-FERENCE IN NUANCE, THOUGH.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF WEIRD CHICKS.

SHE'S OUTTA MY EX-PERTISE, THAT'S FOR SURE.

IS SHE STILL LIKE THAT?

I WORRY SHE'S GOING TO GET TIRED OF IT.

AT THIS POINT MY BEST BET IS TO AIM FOR THE FRESHMEN ...

...WHY DON'T I HAVE ANY CONNEC-TIONS WITH NORMAL, CUTE GIRLS?

LOOK...

IT WASN'T LIKE THERE WERE GOING TO BE ANY NEW SOS BRIGADE APPLI-CANTS.

AT THE MOMENT, THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF MY INTEREST.

THE FRESH-MEN, HUH?

SURE.

I'VE GOT TO STOP BY SOME-WHERE.

TA (DASH)

KYON.

WILL YOU GO ON AHEAD?

I WAS SURE SHE HADN'T SPOTTED AN AAA-RANK FRESHMAN.

WELL, THAT HAP-PENED SOME-TIMES.

SHE WASN'T THERE.

...NA-GATO?

GACHA (CLACK)

YEAH, NO WAY...

HELLO THERE.

STRANGE THAT NO ONE ELSE IS HERE YET, ISN'T IT?

AH, KYON-KUN!

TA (TAP)

THIS WAS MY CHANCE TO ASK.

PATAN (SHUT)

ABOUT THAT TIME TRAVELER WE MET IN FEBRUARY ...

ASAHINA-SAN.

WHAT IS HE UP TO?

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE OBSERVING HARUHI. STILL...

YES, I REMEM-BER.

I HAVEN'T BEEN GIVEN ANY ORDERS, SO...

BUT I DON'T THINK HE CAME HERE TO DO ANYTHING BAD.

HIS GOAL IS... ACTUALLY, I WASN'T TOLD WHAT IT WAS.

IT'S DEFINITELY CON-NECTED.

...COME FROM A TIME THAT'S CONNECTED TO OURS?

DID HE...

HA (GASP)

...IT LEAVES TRACES IN THE TIME PLANE, SO...

TIME TRAVEL USING THE TIME PLANE DESTROID DEVICE, IT...

BOTH HE AND I CAME HERE USING, ER...

...THE SAME METHOD.

GYU (SQUEEZE)

IT MUST'VE DROPPED OFF THE NO-SAY LIST.

IT WAS A WORD I ALREADY KNEW.

HOW... DID I SAY THAT?

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE CLASSIFIED!

PAKU (FLAP) ぱくぱく PAKU

WELL, IT...

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

THAT SOUNDS PRETTY DANGEROUS.

I'M SORRY.

THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.

IT'S NO GOOD. I CAN'T SAY IT.

I GUESS NOT ALL THE RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.

BUT I'LL TELL YOU MORE SOON— REALLY.

THE FACT THAT THE RESTRICTIONS WERE LIFTED EVEN A LITTLE IS PROOF THAT I'VE MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING SO FAR.

SO, SOON I'M SURE...

I WANTED THINGS TO STAY LIKE THIS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

AND IT WASN'T PURELY SELF-INTEREST THAT MADE ME WISH FOR THAT.

...THE NEARER OUR TIME OF PARTING DREW.

THE CLOSER SHE GOT TO BECOMING ASAHINA THE ELDER...

I BELIEVE YOU, ASAHINA-SAN.

I KNOW ALL YOUR HARD WORK WILL BE REWARDED.

入団試験開催の
お知らせ
新一年生限定
THEY MIGHT BE HIDING SOME-WHERE!
BUT IT'S TOO EARLY TO GIVE UP!
THE RECRUIT-MENT DRIVE DIDN'T GET US ANYWHERE.

FLYER: NOTICE OF BRIGADE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, FRESHMEN ONLY!

HEY, HARUHI.
THEY MIGHT NOT BE SURE WHETHER TO JOIN OR NOT.

ARMBAND: CHIEF

THAT'S RIGHT.
THE SOS BRIGADE'S NAME IS ALREADY WELL-KNOWN AMONG PEOPLE WHO KNOW.
WHAT IS THIS?
THERE'S A TEST TO JOIN THE BRIGADE?

...THERE ARE A FEW PEOPLE CRAZY ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY WANT TO JOIN THE SOS BRIGADE.

I JUST HOPE ...

FRESH-MEN.

WHO'S EVEN LOOKING AT THIS?

NEW MEM-BERS.

TA (BLUNT)

NOPE.

LEMME SEE.

OTHERWISE THE EXAM QUESTIONS I MADE WILL GO TO WASTE.

GYU (GRAB)

YES, HOPE-FULLY A FEW WILL SHOW UP.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE, YOU'LL NEED TO RISE IN THE RANKS!

PI (FLICK)

THIS IS A BRIGADE SECRET!

IT'S NOT FOR THE EYES OF UNDER-LINGS LIKE YOU.

SECRET, MY FOOT.

IT WAS QUITE PEACE-FUL— PEACE-FUL?

WAIT.

KOI-ZUMI AND I WERE PLAY-ING A GAME.

ASA-HINA-SAN WAS READ-ING A BOOK ON JAPA-NESE TEA.

HARUHI WAS AT THE COM-PUTER.

WHERE'S YUKI?

COME TO THINK OF IT...

GOKU (GULP)

I EVEN MADE TEA FOR HER, LIKE I ALWAYS DO.

THAT'S RIGHT, SHE'S NOT HERE.

I'LL TRY CALLING HER.

CHA (FLIP)

WHAT WAS THIS TERRIBLE FEELING?

NAGATO HADN'T COME TO THE CLUBROOM— THAT WAS ALL.

HEY, YUKI.

RRR

CHA (CLICK)

WHERE ARE YOU TODAY?

HUH?

NO WAY, REALLY?

ARMBAND: CHIEF

A FEVER? DO YOU HAVE A COLD?

DID YOU SEE A DOCTOR?

YOU DIDN'T, HUH?

WHAT ABOUT MEDICINE?

PI (BIP)

GET BACK INTO BED AND LAY DOWN.

ENOUGH.

OF COURSE IT'S A BIG DEAL.

DUMMY ...

YOU'VE GOT TO CONTACT US WHEN THESE THINGS HAPPEN.

WE WERE SO WORRIED!

ARMBAND: CHIEF

WE SHOULD'VE NOTICED SOONER.

THIS ISN'T JUST A SMALL MIS-TAKE.

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

YUKI MISSED SCHOOL TODAY.

BA (WHAP)

SOMEONE SHOULD'VE TOLD EITHER HARUHI OR ME.

NAGATO, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING?

ナース

TA (DASH)

MIKURU-CHAN, HURRY AND CHANGE.

IF THINGS ARE SO BAD THAT YOU'RE MISSING SCHOOL, WHY DIDN'T YOU—

YEAH

HURRY!

NAGATO, WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?

KOI-ZUMI.

DID YOU KNOW NAGATO WAS MISSING SCHOOL?

I SWEAR THAT I DID NOT KNOW.

I'M SURE NAGATO-SAN HASN'T CONTRACTED AN ORDINARY COLD.

IT IS PROBABLY THE SAME SICKNESS SHE HAD BEFORE.

AND KUYOH—

...THE DOLL-LIKE HUMANOID INTERFACE OF THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN.

THE PHANTOM MANSION IN THE BLIZZARD.

THE EPISODE THAT MADE ME HATE WINTER.

THEY'VE RESTARTED THEIR INVASION.

AND OF COURSE, THEIR FIRST TARGET IS NAGATO-SAN, THE SOS BRIGADE'S STRONGEST LINE OF DEFENSE.

AND UNFOR-TUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO OPPOSE AN ATTACK.

...ONLY WE HUMANS WILL BE LEFT.

IF THEY FORCE HER INTO INOPERA-BILITY...

ZA (STEP)

...BUT HARUHI ...

AND I KNOW PERFECTLY WELL I'M TOTALLY POWER-LESS.

THAT LEAVES HARUHI AND I AS THE ONLY REMAINING BRIGADE MEMBERS.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

BA (WHAP)

ばっ!?

WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT TO YUKI'S PLACE!

BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO? WAS THIS IT?

WAS THIS THE TIME AND PLACE TO REVEAL MY JOKER, MY TRUMP CARD?

IF SHE FINDS OUT WHOSE FAULT IT IS THAT NAGATO'S SICK...

THE DISSOCIATION OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VI : END

α=7

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA I

MAYBE THE SOS BRIGADE WAS RUBBING OFF ON ME.

LATELY THE WALK HOME FROM SCHOOL AFTER I PARTED WAYS WITH HARUHI AND THE OTHERS FELT SOMEHOW LONELY.

IT WAS MONDAY, THE FIRST WEEKDAY, AND NOTHING PARTICULARLY NOTABLE HAPPENED.

PERHAPS IT WAS SUNDAY'S LINGERING LETHARGY.

THE SPRINGTIME WALK TO SCHOOL WAS BRIGHTER THAN USUAL.

NOT THAT IT MATTERED.

THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN THANKS TO THE INNOCENCE OF THE NEW FRESHMEN WHO HAD VISITED THE CLUB AFTER SCHOOL.

OR MAYBE IT WAS AN EFFECT OF THE CLI-MATE.

... THEO-RETI-CALLY.

AT LEAST ...

SO, NOTHING PARTIC-ULARLY WORTHY OF ANY MENTION HAD HAPPENED THAT DAY.

β—6·7

I DON'T THINK SO.

IF WE ACT IN HASTE, WE MAY PLAY RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS.

WAS THIS THE TIME AND PLACE TO REVEAL MY JOKER, MY TRUMP CARD?

BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO? WAS THIS IT?

IF OUR ENEMY HAD ATTACKED SERIOUSLY, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE.

THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF KYOKO TACHIBANA MAKING ANY CARELESS MOVES.

ALSO ...

...THIS MAY EVEN BE AN ADVAN-TAGEOUS POSITION.

WE MUST CONSIDER OUR REACTION CAREFULLY.

BY ANALOGY, NEITHER HAS THE TIME TRAVELER FACTION.

THIS IS A UNILATERAL MOVE BY THE DATA OVERMIND'S COUNTER-PART.

TIME IS OF THE ES-SENCE!

WHAT'RE YOU MUT-TERING ABOUT OVER THERE?

HEY, KYON!

BUT YOU...

TA (DASH)

ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

WE'RE GOING STRAIGHT TO YUKI'S PLACE!

THIS IS AN ADVAN-TAGEOUS POSI-TION?

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW...

HE'S GOTTA BE JOKING!

DIN DIN DON DIN (DING) DON (DONG) TOO

AND DEPEND-ING ON HOW THAT TURNS OUT...

EVERY-BODY'S HERE TO CHECK IN ON YOU.

YUKI, IT'S ME.

...HOW TO MEASURE WHAT'S WRONG WITH NAGATO!

THOSE PAJAMAS AREN'T VERY ALLURING

YUKI.

SHOULD YOU REALLY BE UP?

NU (LOOM)

GEEZ!

FORGET ABOUT OUR SLIP-PERS!

DID YOU EAT DINNER YET?

GOTO (CLUNK)

REAL

KOKU (NOD)

YOU DO HAVE A BIT OF A FEVER.

DOES YOUR HEAD HURT?

YOU LIVE ALONE AND ALL.

YOU GOTTA EAT.

I'LL BUY YOU ONE LATER.

DO YOU HAVE AN ICE PACK ANY-WHERE?

SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE DEATHLY ILL, AT LEAST.

SO THAT WAS A RELIEF.

BUT FIRST, DIN-NER!

I'M GONNA BORROW YOUR KITCHEN AND FRIDGE, OKAY?

MIKURU-CHAN, YOU HELP ME!

GOT IT.

O-OKAY!

KOIZUMI, YOU'RE ON SHOPPING DUTY.

TA (TAP) タン

I'M GONNA MAKE MY SPECIAL RICE PORRIDGE.

THAT'S THE BEST THING FOR COLDS!

TA TA タタッ

AND I KNEW FROM EXPERIENCE SHE WAS A GOOD COOK.

NOTHING BUT CANS!

THAT'S HARDLY A BALANCED DIET.

SHE MIGHT CLAIM IT'S HER DUTY AS CHIEF, BUT SHE EXCELLED AT THINGS THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE SOS BRIGADE.

EGGS. SPINACH. ONION...

HARUHI WAS PRETTY DEPENDABLE IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

DO YOU FEEL ABOUT AS BAD AS YOU LOOK?

I HAVE TO ASK.

MIKURU-CHAN, GET ME THE SOY SAUCE, WOULD YOU?

COMING!

I'LL TAKE THAT TO MEAN I CAN KEEP TALKING.

IS THIS BECAUSE OF KUYOH?

.....

SINCE SATUR-DAY EVE-NING.

I AM OVER-LOADED.

I CANNOT SAY THAT FOR CERTAIN, BUT IT IS LIKELY.

YESTERDAY, SUNDAY.

SASAKI CALLED ME OUT FOR THAT MEETING.

NOW THAT I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, IT WAS STRANGE.

RIGHT WHEN I'D GOTTEN THAT PHONE CALL FROM SASAKI IN THE BATH?

EMIRI KIMIDORI-SAN.

AND THERE'D BEEN A SURPRISE APPEARANCE.

WORKING A PART-TIME JOB AT THE CAFÉ?

THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN A COINCI-DENCE.

AN INTERFACE FROM THE DATA OVERMIND UNLIKE EITHER NAGATO OR ASAKURA.

HOW STUPID COULD I BE?

WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE IT AT THE TIME?

AND THAT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN NAGATO'S JOB.

SHE'D BEEN THERE TO OBSERVE KUYOH.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

...NAGATO.

HEY...

POSUN (FWUMP)

ぽすん

FJRA (SWAY)

THE DATA OVER-MIND WILL...

I CANNOT RECOVER FROM MY CURRENT STATE OF MY OWN WILL...

SO TO BE CLEAR ...

...THIS WAS NOT A NORMAL SICK-NESS.

THIS WAS AN INFORMATION ATTACK FROM THE HEAVENLY CANOPY DOMAIN.

NO DOCTOR COULD CURE THIS.

I AM FINE.

WORDS ARE DIFFICULT.

WORDS ...

COULD WE FIX THIS IF WE TALK TO KUYOH?

IF AS AN INDIVIDUAL I HAD BEEN GIVEN SOCIAL CAPABIL-ITIES...

MY VERBAL COMMUNI-CATION FACILITY IS INSUFFICIENT.

I...

I AM NOT CURRENTLY ABLE TO CONDUCT DISCOURSE WITH ANOTHER ORGANIC INTERFACE.

UNTIL I... CEASE FUNC-TIONING ...

THE POSSI-BILITY OF MY GAINING TOOLS LIKE RYOUKO ASAKURA'S WAS NOT ZERO.

...I WILL BE AS I AM.

I WAS NOT MADE THAT WAY.

NAGATO ...

I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY.

IF NAGATO AND ASAKURA HAD BEEN SWITCHED...

IT WAS AN OBVIOUS MISMATCH— HONESTLY, I COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE IT.

.....

NOTHING.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?

HOW CAN WE CURE YOU...?

... JUST TELL ME.

HEY, KYON!

NOTHING? YOU CAN'T...

YOU SHOULD BE WORKING HARDEST OF ALL!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING WITH YUKI?

GET IN HERE AND HELP ME!

DOSA (THUD)
TON (CHOP)
TON
TON
SHU (SHK)
SHU
I KNOW A FINE DOCTOR.
HE'LL PRESCRIBE SOME EXCELLENT MEDICINE FOR HER.
I DOUBT SHE'LL NEED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL.
SHUTA (SHTK)
TA
TA
TA
TA
THAT PUTS A PROFES-SIONAL HOME-MAKER TO SHAME.
THE KEY IS SPIRIT. SPIRIT!
TON
TON
TON
SHU
SHU
MEDICINE ONLY MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING BETTER.
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH HER TONGUE.
I PROB-ABLY SHOULDN'T SAY THIS, BUT MOM...
...I MEAN, MY MOTHER DOESN'T HAVE THE BEST TASTE.
KA (SCRAPE)
I'M USED TO IT.
I'VE BEEN COOKING SINCE I WAS A GRADE-SCHOOLER.

AND THERE'S NO BETTER PRACTICE THAN PRACTICAL EXPERI-ENCE.

KO

KO

KO

IT WORKS OUT SINCE SHE'S BUSY WITH WORK, SO WE HELP EACH OTHER OUT.

KO (BLUB)

KO

KO

NOWADAYS I MAKE DINNER ABOUT HALF THE TIME.

HERE, TASTE THIS.

KO

KO

KURU (FWIP)

KO

KO

KO

IN COOKING OR ANYTHING ELSE, YOU'VE GOT TO APPLY YOURSELF TO IT EVERY DAY.

IT'S CHOCK-FULL OF VITA-MINS FROM A TO Z, AND GREAT FOR YOUR STAM-INA.

THIS IS MY SPECIAL ORIGINAL VEGETABLE SOUP!

OKAY ...

AH!

IT'S DELI-CIOUS!

TA (DASH)

ALL DONE, YUKI!

SORRY FOR THE WAIT!

I BET YOU SKIPPED LUNCH, HUH?

ZU (SIP) ズ ズー ズー

NOW, EAT UP!

HERE, FIRST YOUR MEDI-CINE.

YOU'RE SUP-POSED TO TAKE IT BEFORE EATING.

NII (GRIND)

YEAH?

I'M SO GLAD!

...DELI-CIOUS.

C'MON, EAT UP!

...BUT IT SHOULD BE FLAVORFUL ENOUGH AS IT IS.

NOW THIS IS VEGE-TABLE SOUP.

I WOULD'VE LIKED TO SIMMER IT LONGER...

IF THIS HAD BEEN AN ORDINARY DISEASE, WE WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO CALL IT QUITS RIGHT THERE.

HARUHI'S ENERGY WAS DAZZLING.

KYON-KUN...?

GATAN (RATTLE)

SORRY.

I'M GONNA GO USE THE BATHROOM.

SU (RISE)

MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE SOME SAKE AND EGGS.

I JUST COULDN'T KEEP STANDING THERE SOMEHOW.

NAGATO WOULD EAT ANYTHING PUT IN FRONT OF HER, WHETHER SHE NEEDED TO OR NOT.

SHE WAS PROBABLY JUST REPRESS-ING HER LACK OF APPETITE.

I HAD TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT KUYOH GIRL.

MAYBE BECAUSE HER USUAL AURA SEEMED SOMEHOW DILUTED.

A BLACK SCREEN? A VIRUS MAYBE?

HUH? A TEXT?

UGH.

BBBBB

WHA!

THIS IS JUST LIKE WHEN I WAS TRAPPED IN CLOSED SPACE.

NAGATO... NAGATO?

yuki.n>
There is no need for worry.

KATA KATA

Your fever is because of those Heavenly Canopy jerks, right?

KATA (TAP) KATA

yuki.n>
I will not allow them to harm you or Haruhi Suzumiya.

yuki.n>
Yes.

?

WHO CARES ABOUT ME OR HARUHI?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S IN TROUBLE!

DAMN...

WHAT'S WRONG ...?

yuki.n>
This is part of my duti□□□□data□□rm ind□□□ttempt communcat□□enly canopy dom□

yuki.n>
my operaä, □è²□å□¯ã□®3 å¤§å¦ã€Œå ¯□è€³ã□«æ

yuki.n>
Going to sleep for a bit.

IT'S TOTALLY UNHEARD OF FOR NAGATO TO SEND ME TOTAL NONSENSE.

IS SHE THAT SICK?

Kyon, quiet down!

Yuki just fell asleep

NAGA-TO!!

She fell over as soon as she was done eating and went to sleep on the spot.

No matter who it is, just having someone around is...

You gotta have other people around

It's times like this when living alone's no good.

KYON!?

DA (DASH)

WHERE ARE YOU...

"DON'T WORRY," MY ASS!

THAT'S FREAKIN' IMPOSSIBLE!

THAT'S JUST NOT HOW HUMANS WORK!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE KUYOH IS, BUT I KNOW SHE'S WEARING A KOUYOUEN ACADEMY UNIFORM.

THAT'S MY ONLY CLUE...

I'M PROBABLY BEING STUPID.

...BUT THIS IS NO TIME TO JUST SIT AROUND.

I DON'T CARE IF THE SECURITY GUARD TRIES TO STOP ME.

I'LL BREAK INTO THE STAFF ROOM IF I HAVE TO...

DA

HAAH! HAAH!

KAN

KAN

KAN

SOMEHOW, I CAME TO THAT PLACE.

NEARLY A YEAR EARLIER, I'D HEARD A LONG MONOLOGUE FROM HARUHI RIGHT THERE.

KAN (CLANG)

KAN

KAN

HA (GASP)

GOO (WHOOSH)

IT WAS LIKE... NO...

WHY WAS SHE HERE?

SHE WAS WAITING FOR ME.

THIS WAS NO COINCI-DENCE.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO NAGA-TO?

I WANTED TO LEARN ABOUT HUMANS ...

... NO ...

WILL YOU GO OUT WITH ME...?

THAT IS WRONG.

... YOU.

I WAN-TED TO LEARN ABOUT

I DON'T MIND ...

WHAT WAS SHE SAYING!?

WHAT THE...?

MY VISION... GOING DARK...

NO, DON'T LOOK...

NONE OF IT ADDED UP.

IT WAS AN EMER-GENCY.

WHAT WAS THIS?

MMM

IF I'M TO TURN HIM OVER TO YOU, I'D RATHER DO THIS.

AFTER ALL, THIS HUMAN IS MY PREY.

I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO APPROACH ANY CLOSER.

STOP RIGHT THERE.

SHARIN (SHING)

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME EITHER WAY.

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU'RE... ASA-KURA!

WHO ELSE WOULD I BE?

SHE CAN'T ACT, SO I'M UP NEXT. THAT'S HOW THINGS WORK.

AFTER ALL, I'M NAGATO-SAN'S BACKUP.

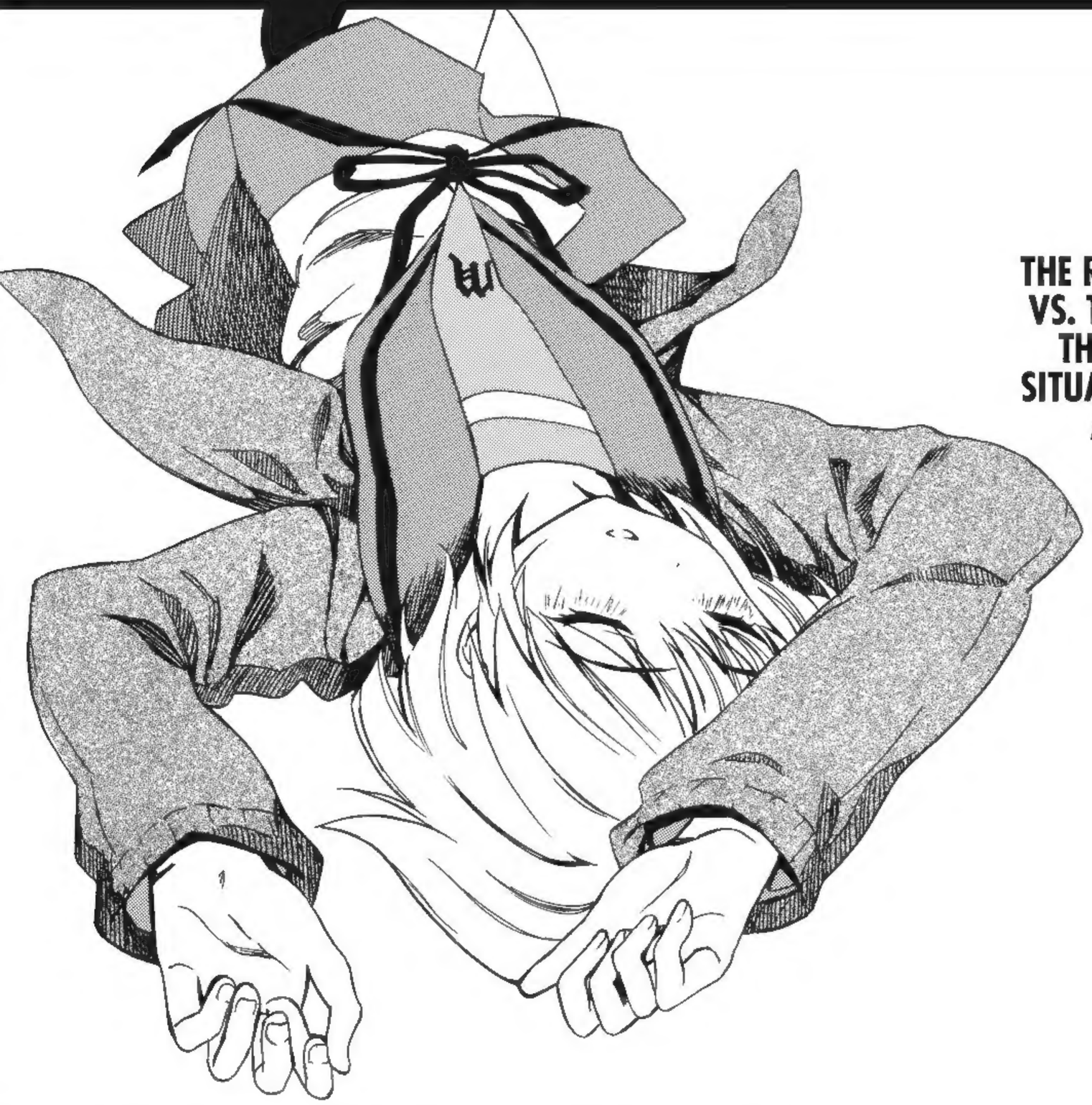
WHAT KIND OF ABSURD DILEMMA WAS THIS...!?

THE TIGER OR THE WOLF— IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE EITHER OF THEM WERE ON MY SIDE.

THIS IS TOTALLY RIDICULOUS.

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA I : END

TO BE CONTINUED



THE REVIVED ASAKURA VS. THE EERIE KUYOH! THE INEXPLICABLE SITUATION CONTINUES, AND KYON...!

JUST HANG IN THERE, NAGATO. WE'LL SAVE YOU!!

THE SURPRISE ARC CONTINUES IN VOLUME 18!!

CONFUSION REIGNS AS THE STAKES BECOME HIGHER!

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya

17

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